



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

October 19, 1996

The Honorable William J. Perry
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On September 24, 1996, the Senate passed the Maritime Security Act of 1995 (H.R. 1350) which establishes the Maritime Security Program (MSP), and on October 8, 1996 the President signed the bill into law.

This law provides support for up to 47 U.S.-flag vessels which will be made available to the Department of Defense (DOD) in time of war or national emergency. This program requires participants to enroll in an Emergency Preparedness Program (EPP). The EPP commits the participants' ships, capacity and intermodal transportation systems through coordinated, prenegotiated contracts for the type and quantity of sealift capacity, when and where necessary, to deploy and sustain U.S. forces when required for national security purposes.

Over the last two years, the Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) and the maritime industry have worked harmoniously to develop the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement which meets the requirements of the EPP. Through their efforts and in keeping with their respective missions, MARAD and USTRANSCOM have established a productive working relationship.

Within the Department of Transportation, program responsibilities for the MSP are delegated to the Maritime Administrator. VADM A. J. Herberger, USN (Ret.), Maritime Administrator, intends to have the program operational within 45 days. MARAD looks forward to continuing a productive working relationship with USTRANSCOM in implementing the new program. It would be helpful to receive a confirmation from you that USTRANSCOM will be the delegated authority within the DOD to act on all issues related to the MSP.

I look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Federico Peña", is written over a horizontal line.

Federico Peña